

KETTERING

Urban Sanitary Authority.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S

ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR 1894.

KETTERING :

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FOR 1894.

Introductory.

GENTLEMEN,
 In presenting my Twenty-Second Annual Report to you, I am glad to be able to say that it is of a more favourable nature than that of the previous year; for although several cases of typhoid fever occurred, the serious outbreak of that disease which happened in 1893 was absent, and had it not been for the large number of cases of Measles, a disease always very fatal in Kettering, the Zymotic death-rate would have been a very low one. When my last Report was issued the population of the town was calculated to be 22,000: at the present time, according to the usual method of calculation, it cannot be less than 23,000. I have therefore based my statistics on this assnmption.

Population.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Birth and Death Rates.	The number of Births during 1894 were	391	410	801
	The number of Deaths were	... 197	147	344
	This gives a Birth Rate of	... 34·7	in the 1000.	
	And a Death Rate of	... 14·9	in the 1000.	
	The Zymotic Death Rate is	.. 2·4	in the 1000.	

During the last ten years the rates have been as follows :—

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.
1885	37	15	·4
1886	40	17	1·3
1887	38	15	·6
1888	36	16	·9
1889	36	12	·3
1890	34	17·8	4·8
1891	38·1	14·6	·3
1892	38·3	16·1	·6
1893	31·3	15	1·09
1894	34·7	14·9	2·4
The mean rates for the decade are	36·3	15·3	1·2

During the ten years completed by 1894, the number of deaths from the following diseases has been as follows :—

Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Measles.
4	17	10	66	110

It is remarkable that the number of deaths from Measles, which is often considered a somewhat trivial disease, is more than equal to all the others put together.

Here follow the statistics of illness and death required by the Local Government Board, to which I add a list of the causes of all the deaths during the year 1894 :

TABLE OF DEATHS

During the Year 1894, in the Kettering Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shewn as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	At all ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Kettering Urban	321	113	82	18	14	41	53
Workhouse	21	1				7	10
Infectious Diseases Hospital	2		3		1	1	
Totals... ..	344	114	85	18	15	49	63

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shewn as separate localities.		Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Puerperal.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	Total.
Kettering Urban...	Under 5		2					42	11	2	1	41	4		90	193
	5 upwds	1	2	3		1	2	4			19	17	16	2	61	128
Workhouse	Under 5							1				1			2	4
	5 upwds										1	7	3		6	17
Infectious Diseases Hospital	Under 5															
	5 upwds				2											2
Totals.....	Under 5		2					43	11	2	1	42	4		92	197
	5 upwds	1	2	3	2	1	2	4			20	29	19	2	62	147

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES
OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,

Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894,
in the Kettering Urban Sanitary District, classified according to
Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public Institutions being shewn as separate localities.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	New cases of sickness in each locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.							Number of such cases removed from their homes in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.	
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1894.		Aged under 5 or over 6.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Puerperal.	Erysipelas.	Scarlatina.	Enteric or Typhoid.
Kettering Urban	19,453	23,000	801	Under 5 5 upwds	25 94	2 4	 3	2 36	 1	2 16	7 23	 25
Total ...	19,453	23,000	801	Under 5 6 upwds	25 94	2 4	 3	2 36	 1	2 16	7 25	 25

Hydrocephalus	...	...	5	Diarrhoea	...	...	...	2
Meningitis	...	...	10	Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	1
Apoplexy	...	..	9	Erysipelas	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis	...	...	48	Convulsions	...	...	...	15
Pneumonia	...	...	18	Cancer	...	...	...	7
Phthisis	...	...	21	Diabetes	...	...	...	1
Heart Disease	...	...	23	Syphilis	...	...	...	1
Laryngitis	...	...	1	Hemorrhage	...	...	...	2
Aneurism	...	...	1	Embolism	...	...	...	1
Liver Disease...	...	...	6	Gout	...	...	...	1
Kidney Disease	...	..	6	Anæmia	...	...	...	1
Asthma	...	...	1	Spinal Disease	...	...	...	1
Gastritis	...	...	1	Child Birth	...	...	...	2
Peritonitis	...	...	5	Premature Birth	...	...	...	22
Obstruction of Bowels	...	...	3	Congenital Debility	...	...	...	9
Scarlatina	...	...	1	Atrophy	...	...	...	32
Diphtheria	...	...	4	Senile Debility	...	...	...	16
Croup	...	...	3	Injuries	...	...	...	5
Measles	...	...	47					—
Typhoid Fever	...	..	2			Total	...	344
Whooping Cough	...	...	11					

An examination of these tables shews that the birth rate is slightly higher, and the death rate a little lower, than last year's. The zymotic death rate would have been a low one except for the serious and fatal outbreak of measles. For a factory town the death-rate for the ten years is certainly very low.

Phthisis. The deaths from Phthisis still become fewer; the gradual diminution in the number of deaths from this disease is very satisfactory. As new factories have sprung up in the town, with better ventilation, and more air space, so this scourge of thickly-populated places has claimed less victims.

Pneumonia and Bronchitis. A large number of cases of Pneumonia and Bronchitis have occurred in newly-erected houses, which in Kettering are occupied long before the walls have become properly dry. It should be remembered that a thorough *airing* of a new house after the roof is on is far preferable to any number of fires after it is inhabited. The number of deaths from these diseases is within one of last year's record.

Infant Mortality. The Infant Mortality is slightly less than usual. It is still too large, and is owing in a great measure to the excessive and improper feeding of infants, by mothers otherwise busily engaged. Infants brought up by hand of course suffer the most, and if the mothers in Kettering would be guided by their doctors as to the diet of their young infants, instead of by those who either will not or do not understand the matter, many lives would be spared. The large number of deaths attributed yearly to convulsions is due, at any rate in some degree, to improper feeding.

Influenza. No death from influenza has been recorded during the past year. Cases have occurred from time to time, but not in large numbers, and in almost all instances those who had previously suffered from this disease were attacked, and not those who had escaped.

Small Pox. No case of Small Pox has been notified, but a strict look-out has been kept, and every suspicious case has been thoroughly investigated.

Scarlatina. Scarlatina has been very prevalent throughout the year. Not a month has passed without the occurrence of several cases. 119 cases have been notified, but only one death is recorded. This shews that most of the cases were of a very mild nature, and to this cause I attribute in a great measure the continued spread of the disease, for I believe many cases have been unrecognised by the parents of those attacked, at any rate in the earlier stages of the illness. The Hospital was used during the earlier months of the year for scarlatina patients, but afterwards there were so many centres of infection in all parts of the town that only special cases were admitted.

Many of the cases were followed by Rheumatism, owing no doubt to insufficient care being taken during the course of slight

attacks of the disease. Only 5 cases were notified during the month of December. The Inspector has used every means to disinfect the dwellings, as well as the bedding and clothing, of those who have suffered.

Diphtheria.

It is a rare occurrence for Diphtheria to appear in Kettering, but during the past year 6 cases have been notified. The first of these occurred in the Hawthorn Road in July, and the infection was received in this instance, from a person who had been nursing a case of Diphtheria elsewhere. Nearly all the members of this family suffered from sore throats. Every precaution was taken to prevent the disease from spreading, and no member of any other household suffered. Great care was taken as to disinfection, after the recovery of the patient.

In October cases of this disease occurred in King Street and Princes Street. Nothing could be found to account for this outbreak, except some slight defects in the drainage arrangements between the two streets named. It was not thought desirable to remove any of these cases to the Hospital.

Typhoid Fever.

Thirty-eight cases of Typhoid Fever have been notified during the year. Only 2 of them proved fatal. Twenty-five of these were removed to the Hospital. They occurred in the following order:—

January ...	2	June ...	3	October ...	6
February...	10	July ...	3	November	1
March ...	2	August ...	3	December	3
May ...	4	September ..	1		

The first cases were located in Field Street Avenue. Here the drinking water was found to be impure, the supply was cut off, and the Company's water laid on. As a precautionary measure the closets and drains were thoroughly flushed repeatedly, and the illness did not spread in this locality.

Cases occurred later on in Oxford Street, North Street, Edgell Street, Harcourt Street, Nelson Street, Ford Street, Regent Street, Duke Street, Wood Street, Alexandra Street, Bridewell Lane, Union Street, Montagu Street, Cobden Street, Wyatt Street, and Mill Road. No common cause could be found for these cases, but in many of them some local defect in the drainage or water supply was discovered, and in all cases put to rights. In a few cases the patients were convinced that the emanations from the sewer ventilators were the cause of the illness, and it is surprising how fond children are of playing and stooping over the man-holes of the sewers. Eleven of these cases were children under ten years of age. Wherever a case of Typhoid Fever was known to exist, thorough and systematic flushing, both of the private and public drains, was resorted to. This was also done in suspicious and uncertain cases of illness, whenever such cases came under the notice of the officers of the Board, and it was certainly owing to these means and the removal of so many cases to the Hospital that the further spread of the disease was prevented.

Cholera. No case of Cholera, and very few of serious Diarrhœa, occurred in this district.

Measles. A sudden outbreak of Measles commenced in May, and cases continued to fall until the end of July. The earlier cases, as usual, were not of a severe type, but as their number increased the disease assumed a more virulent form, and a large number of deaths (47) occurred. By far the greater number was caused by the complications which usually accompany, or follow, this illness, and many of them from want of care in nursing: indeed, it was not at all an uncommon occurrence to see children lying ill in the same room in which the family were taking their meals, and with the door of the room opening directly on to the street. Measles is not "notified" in this district, so that it is impossible to know how numerous the cases were; but from the diminished school attendance and other means of calculation, there were certainly considerably more than a thousand cases in this district. The outbreak was so sudden that it was impossible to trace out the origin of the first cases. As before remarked this disease, when it occurs in Kettering in an epidemic form, is always the cause of a large number of deaths.

Notification of Infectious Diseases. The notification of infectious diseases has again been very useful, and well worth its cost. It has enabled the officers of the Board to take the earliest steps towards the preventing the spread of the diseases notified. The number of cases has been as follows:—

			Cases.		Deaths.
Scarlatina	...	...	119	...	1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	38	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	6	...	4
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	18	...	2
Croup	...	...	3	...	3
Total			185		13

Infectious Diseases Hospital. The Local Board Hospital for Infectious Diseases has been in almost constant use during the past year. 55 cases have been admitted, 53 of which have been sent home cured, and 2 have died. The cases treated have been:

			Cases.		Deaths.
Scarlatina	...	...	30	...	0
Typhoid Fever	...	...	25	...	2

Eight cases remained in the Hospital at the commencement of 1894, all of which were discharged cured.

The Hospital is at present empty, and the nurse is having a well-earned rest. The disinfecting apparatus in the Hospital grounds has been used frequently, and I believe in all cases satisfactorily. The Hospital seems to have been of more real use in cases of Typhoid

this year than of Scarlatina. Many of the cases of the latter disease were of a very slight nature, and were out in the grounds within a few days of their arrival. I must again remark that the chief object of this Hospital is the prevention of the spread of infectious disease, and that it should not be used as a refuge for the destitute, or a receptacle for those whose relatives simply wish to avoid the trouble of nursing them at home, when no other good can be obtained by their removal. Its greatest use may be obtained by the removal to it of the very *earliest* cases of such a disease as Scarlet Fever, and not of those which occur when the illness is in all parts of the town.

Before another annual report is issued it is probable that a Hospital for ten or twelve beds will have been erected on the piece of land purchased by the Rural Sanitary Authority, adjoining our Hospital, and that the two buildings will be managed by a joint Board. The advantages of this arrangement will be considerable. The expenses, which have been large, will be divided; one caretaker will be sufficient for both buildings; and except in times of pressure or in the event of more than one disease being present, one permanent nurse will be sufficient. Also, we shall have an entirely distinct set of wards, so that diseases may be classified without fear of communication. Doubtful cases, too, may be taken in to one or other of the buildings, isolated, and watched, without the fear of their receiving any infection.

Water Supply.

The water supply from the Company's mains has been ample, constant, and in all respects satisfactory, and the water procured from the new reservoir at Cransley is softer, and better suited for domestic purposes, than the former supply from the wells at Weekley; while the latter is still kept in reserve in case of any temporary interruption in the supply from Cransley.

Sewage Works.

The Sewage Works are still causing anxiety, and probably either the dual system of drainage, or a purchase of more land for irrigation, or both, will have to be entertained by the new Council. There can be no doubt in the minds of those who have watched the matter that the bacillite process of Messrs. Hope has totally altered the character of the effluent, which in all specimens taken, at the outfall as well as from the brook below, has been clear, and free from all smell of sewage. Until the brook has been thoroughly cleaned out, which cannot be undertaken before the Spring, and the remains of any old deposit removed, it will be impossible to tell whether any noxious deposit is still taking place.

In times of great flood, or sudden increase in the rush of surface water, no doubt the arrangements at the Kettering Sewage Works, like those at all other places, have been insufficient to cope with and disinfect the contents of the sewers, and probably once or twice at least during the past year this has happened, and some further deposit may have taken place on the sides of the brook.

Sewers.

The dual system of drainage has been adopted in the new streets taken over by the Board ; there are, however, still many water closets without cisterns, and depending entirely upon hand flushing for their cleanliness. This is not as it should be, and wherever infectious diseases or even suspicious cases of illness have been known to exist, flushing has been resorted to ; and the late Board have always given their officers unlimited power in this respect.

Complaints have been made from time to time of the emanations from some of the man-holes of the sewers. In these cases the sewers have always been examined and flushed as soon as possible. The new shafts erected for ventilating the sewers have in most cases given satisfaction to those living near.

Lodging
Houses.

The single licensed Lodging House has been frequently visited and inspected. The proprietor seems always anxious to keep it in a good sanitary condition, to make such improvements as are necessary, and to assist the officers of the Board in every way in his power. The double beds formerly in use have been replaced by single ones. Cases of illness have always been reported to the Medical Officer or Inspector.

Dairies and
Bakehouses.

The Dairies and Bakehouses have been inspected, and in most cases have been found well kept. In one instance alterations had to be made in a bakehouse. All the milk sold in the town is brought in from the adjacent villages, and in all cases of illness likely to be caused by milk supply, thorough investigation has been made. No illness has been traced to this cause during the year.

Milk.

Slaughter
Houses.

The Slaughter House which formerly gave the most trouble to your officers has been closed. A watch has been kept on an unlicensed place, which there was reason to believe had been used for this purpose. The Board have refused to issue fresh licenses for Slaughter Houses in most cases, and the time will not be far distant when Kettering will have a Public Abattoir, as a suitable piece of land for the purpose has already been purchased. The advantages of Public Slaughter Houses in the place can hardly be over-estimated. More humanity, more cleanliness, the inspection of the animals before slaughter, and the meat afterwards, will necessarily be more easily accomplished.

Houses unfit
for
Habitation.

Three houses near the Tanyard were condemned as unfit for habitation, and were closed. The row of houses known as Bell's Row have been on the borderland of this category for some time. These have now been purchased by the Board, and will probably before long be demolished, much to the improvement of that part of the town. The removal of the old houses in Market Street, the widening of that street, and the erection of the new buildings there, has given a new and greatly-improved aspect to that part of the town.

Factories and
Workshops.

The Factories and Workshops have been visited and inspected from time to time. A large number of the smaller Workshops, which were often overcrowded, are no longer used, the new machinery now largely used in the boot industry necessitating the work being carried on in the Factories.

Fish, Meat,
and Fruit.

A watch has been kept on the Meat, Fish, and Fruit offered for sale. Some has been condemned; one summons was issued, and a conviction followed in the case of some putrid rabbits.

District
Nurses.

The District Nurses have again done excellent work, and have by their example and instruction no doubt been the means of preventing the spread of infectious disease. The thanks of all classes are due to them for the great amount of work and good they have done.

Vaccination.

The compulsory clauses of the Vaccination Acts are in abeyance in this district.

Inspection
and
Inspector.

Although, strictly speaking, no house-to-house visitation has taken place in the town, every street, both old and new, has been inspected; and I believe nearly every case of gross filthiness has been brought to the notice of your officers, investigated, and as far as possible remedied. The places most requiring attention are now well known, and frequently visited. Your officers have spent considerable time in the inspection of the south side of Montagu Street, where two tripe-boiling and one rag and bone businesses are carried on, and have caused considerable improvements to be effected. Several severe cases of fever were removed to the Hospital from this locality.

I cannot conclude without saying that your Inspector, Mr. Barritt, has worked with untiring energy, perseverance, and tact, throughout the whole year. The legal proceedings called for have been few indeed, in proportion to the large amount of useful work he has accomplished.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. WINTER DRYLAND,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT
OF
Sanitary Inspector for 1894.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Kettering Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the following details of Sanitary Work carried out during the past year :

- 165 House Inspections were made.
- 5 Sink Pipes were disconnected from drains.
- 25 Defective Sink Pipes were repaired.
- 7 Waste Water Pipes were disconnected from Sewer.
- 15 Drains were relaid.
- 66 New Drain Traps were fixed.
- 12 Drain Traps were repaired.
- 9 Drain Traps were disannulled and openings sealed.
- 2 Undrained Stables were drained.
- 2 Receptacles for Manure provided.
- 3 Yards were newly paved.
- 15 Badly paved Premises were repaired.
- 4 New Water Closets were fixed.
- 54 Old Water Closets were cleaned and repaired.
- 4 Cesspools and Vaults were abolished.
- 2 Cesspools were cleansed.
- 3 Houses unfit for human habitation were closed.
- 2 Cases of Overcrowding in houses were abated.
- 76 Rooms, Bedding, &c., were fumigated after infection.
- 24 Offensive Accumulations were removed.
- 6 Pig and Fowl Nuisances were abated.
- 6 Ventilating Shafts were fixed on private property, and a number were fixed from sewers, as complaints arose.

One hundred and fourteen samples of Water were taken for testing, resulting in 72 houses being supplied with Company's Water. Two new Wells were sunk, where existing ones were contaminated.

At Houses where Typhoid Fever has existed, 113 Water Closets and Side Drains were flushed from main.

Bakehouses and Milk Shops were inspected; most of these were found satisfactory. One Bakehouse was ceiled and generally repaired.

The Slaughter-Houses have also been inspected. Many of these were well kept, but in one or two cases defects were discovered which were at once remedied. One butcher was prosecuted for using an unlicensed Slaughter-House.

The Sanitary arrangements in Four Factories have been improved.

Twenty-one Statutory Notices were served, and duly complied with.

Twenty-seven persons were summoned; eighteen of these for using Obscene Language in the public streets, and nine for breach of Bye-Laws.

In February some putrid Rabbits were exposed for sale in the Market. They were seized and brought before a magistrate, who condemned them, and they were destroyed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN BARRITT,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

